

## CLAIMS

## 2 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1    1. A system for computer component exchange in a network for executing buy orders for  
2       purchasing computer components, wherein the network is electrically connectable to a  
3       plurality of owner-processors, the owner-processors having proprietors, at least one  
4       proprietor having an ownership interest in the computer component exchange, at least a  
5       first owner-processor adaptable to transmit electronic buy orders through the network for  
6       purchasing computer components, at least a second owner-processor adaptable to receive  
7       buy orders from the network, comprising

an exchange server complex electrically connected to the network;

a plurality of investment instruments comprising shares of ownership interests in the exchange server complex, at least one of the shares associated with the first or the second owner-processor thereby representing the ownership interest in the exchange server complex for the proprietor of the respective owner-processor; and

accounting data representing allocation of net profits among the owner-processors that are associated with the shares, the net profits being extracted from fees charged for transactions in the exchange server complex;

wherein the exchange server complex comprises:

- a) a means for receiving one or more buy orders for computer components from the first owner-processor;
  - b) a means for matching the one or more buy orders with the second owner-processor;
  - c) a means for calculating a fee for matching the buy order with the second owner-processor;
  - d) a means for charging the calculated fee to at least the first or second owner-processor, or to both the first and second processors;

- 25                   e) a means for calculating a net profit resulting from charging the calculated  
26                   fee;  
27                   f) a means for apportioning the net profit based on the number of shares  
28                   associated with each owner-processor; and  
29                   g) a means for updating the accounting database based on the apportioning of  
30                   the net profit.
- 1     2. The system of claim 1, wherein the investment instruments comprise incentives for  
2                   proprietors of the owner-processors to place or receive buy orders with the exchange  
3                   server complex.
- 1     3. The system of claim 2, wherein computer program includes a means for associating at  
2                   least one additional share to each owner-processor if the respective owner-processor or  
3                   the proprietor of the respective owner-processor refers a threshold number of other  
4                   owner-processors to transmit buy orders to the exchange server complex.
- 1     4. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises a means for  
2                   withdrawing payment for the second owner-processor from an electronic escrow account  
3                   associated with the first owner-processor after the proprietor of the first owner-processor  
4                   receives the computer components that the buy order was for.
- 1     5. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a  
2                   means for electronically debiting a bank account associated with the first owner-  
3                   processor.
- 1     6. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a  
2                   means for electronically debiting a bank account associated with the second owner-  
3                   processor.

- 1       7. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for charging the calculated fee comprises a  
2           means for electronically debiting a first bank account associated with the first owner-  
3           processor and a second bank account associated with the second owner-processor.
- 1       8. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for apportioning comprises a means for  
2           electronically crediting a bank account associated with each of the plurality of owner-  
3           processors that are associated with shares based on the number of shares associated with  
4           each respective owner-processor.
- 1       9. The system of claim 1, wherein the means for matching comprises a matching software  
2           module that is executable on the exchange server complex for matching a set of  
3           requirements in the buy order with the second owner-processor if the second owner-  
4           processor indicates that a proprietor of the second owner-processor is able to supply  
5           computer components that meet the set of requirements.
- 1       10. The system of claim 9, wherein the set of requirements are in an electronic commerce  
2           standard format.
- 1       11. The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic commerce standard format comprises a  
2           bill of materials format as described by ROSETTANET.
- 1       12. The system of claim 11, comprising a means for referring either of the first or second  
2           owner-processors to a value added service.
- 1       13. The system of claim 12, wherein the computer program is for charging a referral fee to  
2           the value added service when either of the first or second owner-processors are referred to  
3           the value added service.

- 1    14. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for apportioning is further for apportioning  
2       the fee received from the value added service as part of the net profit among the owner-  
3       processors based on the number of shares associated with each owner-processor.
- 1    15. The system of claim 14, wherein the value added service comprises a computer  
2       component shipping agent for providing transportation of the computer components that  
3       are for the buy order, the computer components being shipped from a proprietor of the  
4       second owner-processor to the proprietor of the first owner-processor.
- 1    16. The system of claim 1, further comprising a means for publishing statistics based on a  
2       plurality of buy orders received from a plurality of owner-processors that are each  
3       matched with at least one other owner-processor.
- 1    17. The system of claim 16, wherein the means for publishing is an electronic ticker tape for  
2       display on an attached monitor of one or more of the owner-processors for informing a  
3       proprietor of each respective owner-processor of closing prices per unit by type of  
4       computer component in the latest buy order in time that was matched with an owner-  
5       processor for each type of computer component.

1       18. In an exchange server complex for computer component exchange in a network, a method  
2       for executing buy orders for purchasing computer components, wherein the network is  
3       electrically connectable to a plurality of owner-processors, the owner-processors having  
4       proprietors, at least one proprietor having an ownership interest in the computer  
5       component exchange, wherein each of the plurality of owner-processors are capable of  
6       being associated with one or more shares representing the respective proprietor's  
7       ownership in the exchange server complex, at least a first owner-processor adaptable to  
8       transmit electronic buy orders through the network for purchasing computer components,  
9       at least a second owner-processor adaptable to receive buy orders from the network, the  
10      method comprising the steps of:

11             receiving one or more buy orders for computer components from the first owner-  
12      processor;  
13             matching the one or more buy orders with a second owner-processor;  
14             calculating a fee for matching the buy order with the second owner-processor;  
15             charging the calculated fee to at least the first or second owner-processor, or to  
16      both the first and second owner-processors;  
17             calculating a net profit resulting from charging the calculated fee; and  
18             apportioning the net profit based on the number of shares associated with each  
19      owner-processor.

1       19. The method of claim 18, comprising providing incentives for the proprietors of each of  
2       the owner-processors to place or receive buy orders with the exchange server complex by  
3       associating one or more shares with the owner-processors that place or receive a threshold  
4       number of buy orders.

1       20. The method of claim 18, comprising withdrawing payment for the second owner-  
2       processor from an electronic escrow account associated with the first owner-processor

3 after the proprietor of the first owner-processor receives the computer components that  
4 the buy order was for.

- 1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of charging the calculated fee comprises  
2 electronically debiting a bank account associated with the first owner-processor.
- 1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein step of charging the calculated fee comprises  
2 electronically debiting a bank account associated with the second owner-processor.
- 1 23. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of charging the calculated fee comprises  
2 electronically debiting a first bank account associated with the first owner-processor and  
3 a second bank account associated with the second owner-processor.
- 1 24. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of matching comprises matching a set of  
2 requirements in the buy order with the second owner-processor if the second owner-  
3 processor indicates that a proprietor of the second owner-processor is able to supply  
4 computer components that meet the set of requirements.
- 1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the set of requirements are in an electronic commerce  
2 standard format.
- 1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the electronic commerce standard format comprises a  
2 bill of materials format as described by ROSETTANET.
- 1 27. The method of claim 18, comprising referring either the first, second or both the first and  
2 second owner-processors to a value added service.
- 1 28. The method of claim 27, comprising charging a referral fee to the value added service  
2 after the step of referring.

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- 1       29. The method of claim 28, comprising apportioning the fee received from the value added  
2                  service as part of the net profit among the owner-processors based on the number of  
3                  shares associated with each owner-processor.
- 1       30. The method of claim 29, wherein the value added service comprises a computer  
2                  component shipping agent for providing transportation of the computer components that  
3                  are for the buy order, the computer components being shipped from a proprietor of the  
4                  second owner-processor to the proprietor of the first owner-processor.
- 1       31. The method of claim 18, comprising publishing statistics based on a plurality of buy  
2                  orders received from a plurality of the owner-processors that are each matched with at  
3                  least one other owner-processor, wherein the step of publishing comprises presenting an  
4                  electronic ticker tape for display on an attached monitor of one or more of the owner-  
5                  processors for informing a proprietor of each respective owner-processor of closing prices  
6                  per unit by type of computer component in the latest buy order in time that was matched  
7                  with an owner-processor for each type of computer component.
- 1       32. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of apportioning comprises electronically  
2                  crediting a bank account associated with each of the plurality of owner-processors that are  
3                  associated with shares based on the number of shares associated with each respective  
4                  owner-processor.